

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 SSC-01 /082 W

----- 046827

R 291602Z SEP 75 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2360

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMAKO 3647

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, ML

SUBJECT: CABINET CHANGES IN MALI

REF: A. USUN 4528; B. BAMAKO 3608; C. BAMAKO 3591

1. SUMMARY: MALI'S RULING MILITARY COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION (MCNL) HAS FOLLOWED UP PRESIDENT TRAORE'S SEPT. 22 INDEPENDENCE DAY APPEAL FOR SUTTER ADMINISTRATION BY SHAKING UP THE CABINET AND REORGANIZING MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIOS (REF. B). NEITHER FOREIGN AFFAIRS NOR DEFENSE PORTFOLIOS WERE INVOLVED. THE NEW GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE SHOULD PROVIDE A BETTER FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENTAL PRIORITIES AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. MINISTER OF DEFENSE DOUKARA HAS PROBABLY STRENGTHENED HIS POSITION. THE USG WILL STILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CISSOKO, BUT OTHER APPOINTMENTS PUT MORE REASONABLE PEOPLE INTO MINISTRIES OF INTEREST TO TO U.S. END SUMMARY

### 2. POLITICS

THE MCNL, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT MOUSSA TRAORE, HAS RESTRUCTURED THE CABINET WHICH HAD GOVERNED MALI FOR THE LAST 36 MONTHS. THIS FOLLOWED TRAORE'S INDEPENDENCE DAY APPEAL FOR BETTER ADMINISTRATION, CONFIDENTIAL

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CESTIGATION OF CORRUPT PRACTICES, AND PROMISE OF A

NEW SOCIAL ORDER (REF. C). THE SHUFFLING OF MINISTERS AND THE RECASTING OF RESPONSIBILITIES PROBABLY REFLECTS A REALIGNMENT WITHIN THE MALIAN LEADERSHIP, AS WELL AS MORE ATTENTION TO ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. MINISTER OF DEFENSE DOUKARA AND EXECURITY CHIEF TIEKORO BAGAYOKO HAVE STRENGTHENED THEIR POSITION BY PLACING PROTEGES (YAYA BAGAYOKO, FOUNEKE KEITA, MAMADY KEITA, DEMBELE, DIAWARA SOUMARE AND SANOGO) IN THE CABINET. THE EXCLUSION OF YOUSSEF TRAORE, MCNL MEMBER AND FORMER MINISTER OF INFORMATION, AND THE POPULAR TIEOULE KONATE, FROM THE CABINET COULD PRODUCE FUTURE STRAINS IN THE LEADERSHIP. IN VIEW OF THE REORGANIZATION OF MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES, SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION BELOW THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL MAY SOON BE EXPECTED.

### 3. STRUCTURES

THE REALIGNMENT OF MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES INDICATES THE MCNL'S CONCERN OVER CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY THE WIDENING BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT. THE CREATION OF A NEW MINISTRY OF PLAN UNDER VICE PRESIDENT AMADOU BABA DIARRA WILL FOCUS GREATER HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION ON THE ECONOMY.

4. RECASTING THE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION AND THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT SHOULD ALLOW A SINGLE MINISTRY TO SUPERVISE THE KIND OF INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES WHICH THE MALIAN GOVERNMENT AND DONOR GROUPS FAVOR. EDUCATIONAL FUNCTIONS HAVE NOW BEEN JOINED IN ONE MINISTRY WHILE A NEW PORTFOLIO GIVES MINISTERIAL ATTENTION TO YOUTH, ARTS, CULTURE AND SPORTS. THE SHIFT OF PUBLIC WORKS FROM INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT TO TRANSPORT LEAVES RESPONSIBILITY FOR OMVS AND COMMISSION DE NIGER AFFAIRS SOMEWHAT CLOUDED. LAMINE KEITA WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE HOWEVER, TO REPRESENT MALI AT MEETINGS OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS. WHILE THE FOCUS OF MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES SEEMS MORE LOGICALLY STRUCTURED, IT MAY BE SOME WEEKS BEFORE PEOPLE, OFFICES AND DOSSIERS ARE COMPLETELY REORGANIZED. WE DO NOT KNOW WHO WILL DIRECT THE NEW POLITICAL ORGANIZATION MENTIONED BY THE PRESIDENT SEPTEMBER 22. IT MIGHT BE YOUSSEF

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TRAORE.

### 5. PERSONALITIES

TIME WILL BE NEEDED TO SORT OUT REASONS FOR ENTRIES AND EXITS IN THIS MINISTERIAL SHUFFLE. THOSE EXCLUDED FROM THE CABINET MAY HAVE BEEN GUILTY OF INCOMPETENCE, POTENTIAL POLITICAL OPPOSITION, OR CORRUPTION. THOSE INCLUDED IN THE CABINET SEEM

TO BE TECHNICALLY COMPETENT ADMINISTRATORS WHO  
HAVE PROVED THEMSELVES IN PREVIOUS POSITIONS.  
MAMADY KEITA IS EXPECTED TO BE SOLID AND TOUGH-MINDED  
IN ORGANIZING THE EXTENSIVE SERVICES OF THE MINISTRY OF  
HEALTH, A GOAL THAT ELUDED HIS PREDECESSOR. SORY  
COULIBALY WHO HAS SERVED AS ACTING MINISTER OF PRODUCTION  
BRINGS TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATIVE SKILL AND  
POLITICAL WHALLOP. FOOUNEKE KEITA IS CONSIDERED A BRILLANT  
YOUNG MAN BUT IS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN SHOCKED BY HIS  
APPOINTMENT TO THE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TASK OF MINISTER OF  
FINANCE AND COMMERCE. LAMINE KEITA AT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT  
AND TOURISM WILL BE ENERGETIC, ABLE AND HOPEFULLY, AS  
LIKEABLE AS EVER.

7. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE U.S. THE RETENTION OF FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS BY MINISTER CISSOKO DOES NOT BODE WELL FOR A CHANGE  
IN MALI'S RHETORICAL, ANTI-WEST APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL  
ISSUES. THE EMBASSY HAS HAD GOOD RELATIONS WITH YAYA BAGAYOKO  
AS MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CAN EXPECT A CORDIAL RECEPTION AT  
THE NEW MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, AND AN  
EVEN WARMER WELCOME BY BAGAYOK'S REPLACEMENT AT EDUCATION,  
MUSTAPHA SOUMARE. SORY COULIBALY, A MOST USEFUL CONTACT AT  
LABOR, GOES TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT WHERE HIS ADMINISTRATIVE SKILL  
SHOULD FACILITATE IMPLEMENTATION OF AID PROGRAMS. HAVING  
ASSIMI DIAWARA AT LABOR AND CIVIL SERVICE MAY HINDER CONTACTS  
WITH THE MALIAN LABOR MOVEMENT. THIS GOVERNMENT LOOKS MORE  
COOPERATIVE THAN THE PREVIOUS ONE ON AID AND  
CULTURAL ISSUES, BUT NOT IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

7. WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHETHER THERE WILL BE ANY  
CHANGES IN THE MCNL ITSELF, WHICH WOULD BE EVEN  
MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN THESE CHANGES IN THE GOVERNMENT.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CABINET, COMMITTEES, LIBERATION FRONTS, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 SEP 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BAMAKO03647  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750338-0418  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 BAMAKO 3608, 75 BAMAKO 3591  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CABINET CHANGES IN MALI  
**TAGS:** PGOV, ML, IN, (TRAORE, MOUSSA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006